

Appln. No. 09/756,036  
Amendment dated March 11, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-11 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, the image forming apparatus comprising:

- (a) a writing section for writing according to image data;
- 5 (b) an oscillator for generating a synchronizing clock signal synchronized with a predetermined frequency;
- (c) a spreading clock generator for spreading a band of a reference clock which is synchronized with the predetermined frequency, and generating spreading clock signals; and
- 10 (d) a plurality of control circuits for controlling the image forming apparatus or each section of the image forming apparatus including a writing control circuit for controlling the writing section,

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wherein at least one control circuit of the control circuits  
15 other than the writing control circuit is driven by the spreading  
clock signals, and the writing control circuit is driven by the  
synchronizing clock signal.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). [[An]] The image reading  
apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

(a) a photoelectric conversion section for receiving light  
from an original document and for conducting a photoelectric  
5 conversion;

(b) a photoelectric conversion control circuit for  
controlling the photoelectric conversion section;

(c) a reading image processing circuit for processing image  
data output from the photoelectric conversion section; and

10 (d) a spreading clock generator for spreading a band of a  
reference clock which is synchronized with a predetermined  
frequency, and for generating spreading clock signals,

wherein the photoelectric conversion control circuit and the  
read image processing circuit are driven by a same spreading  
15 clock signal of the spreading clock signals.

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Claim 3 (Currently Amended). An image forming apparatus comprising:

(a) a laser light source for emitting light;

(b) a deflector for deflecting the light emitted from the  
5 laser light source in a primary scanning direction;

(c) a detector for detecting the light deflected by the  
deflector, and outputting an index signal;

(d) a writing control circuit for controlling a modulation  
of the light emitted from the laser source according to the index  
10 signal output from the detector;

(e) a spreading clock generator for spreading a band of a  
reference clock which is synchronized with a predetermined  
frequency, and generating spreading clock signals according to a  
predetermined modulation profile; and

15 (f) a resetting section for resetting the spreading clock  
generator according to the index signal,

wherein the writing control circuit is driven by the  
spreading clock signals.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). An image forming apparatus for  
forming an image on a recording material, comprising:

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(a) a first spreading clock generator for spreading a band  
of a reference clock which is synchronized with a predetermined  
5 frequency, and for generating first spreading clock signals;

(b) a second spreading clock generator for spreading a band  
of a reference clock which is synchronized with the predetermined  
frequency, and for generating second spreading clock signals;

(c) a first control circuit for controlling the image  
10 forming apparatus or each section of the image forming apparatus,  
the first control circuit being driven by the first spreading  
clock signals; and

(d) a second control circuit for controlling the image  
forming apparatus or each section of the image forming apparatus,  
15 the second control circuit being driven by the second spreading  
clock signals,

wherein a spreading width of the first spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals is different from that of the second spreading  
~~clocks~~ clock signals.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). The image forming apparatus of  
claim 4,

wherein the first control circuit is an interface control  
circuit for controlling an interface communicating with an outer

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5 equipment, the second control circuit is at least one of a  
control circuit from among a writing control circuit for  
controlling a writing section which writes according to image  
data, a photoelectric conversion control circuit for controlling  
a photoelectric conversion section which receives light from an  
10 original document and converts a photoelectric conversion, a  
reading image processing circuit for processing image data output  
from the photoelectric conversion section, an operation control  
circuit for controlling an operation section, a sequence control  
circuit for controlling a sequence of an entire image forming  
15 apparatus, and an ADF control circuit for controlling an  
automatic document feeder, and

wherein the spreading width of the first spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals is smaller than that of the second spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The image forming apparatus of  
claim 4,

wherein the first control circuit is a writing control  
circuit for controlling a writing section which writes according  
5 to image data, the second control circuit is at least one of a  
control circuit from among a photoelectric conversion control  
circuit for controlling a photoelectric conversion section which

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receives light from an original document and conducts a  
photoelectric conversion, a reading image processing circuit for  
10 processing image data output from the photoelectric conversion  
section, an operation control circuit for controlling an  
operation section, a sequence control circuit for controlling a  
sequence of an entire image forming apparatus, an ADF control  
circuit for controlling an automatic document feeder, and an  
15 interface control circuit for controlling an interface  
communicating with an outer equipment, and

wherein the spreading width of the first spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals is smaller than that of the second spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The image forming apparatus of  
claim 4,

wherein the first control circuit is a photoelectric  
conversion control circuit for controlling a photoelectric  
5 conversion section which receives light from an original document  
and conducts a photoelectric conversion, the second control  
circuit is at least one of a control circuit from among an  
operation control circuit for controlling an operation section, a  
sequence control circuit for controlling a sequence of an entire

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10 image forming apparatus, and an ADF control circuit for  
controlling an automatic document feeder, and

wherein the spreading width of the first spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals is smaller than that of the second spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). An image forming apparatus for  
forming an image on a recording material, comprising:

(a) an interface control circuit for controlling an  
interface communicating with an outer equipment, which is driven  
5 by first spreading ~~clocks~~ clock signals in which a band of a  
reference clock that is synchronized with a predetermined  
frequency is spread;

(b) a writing control circuit for controlling a writing  
section which writes according to image data, which is driven by  
10 second spreading ~~clocks~~ clock signals in which a band of a  
reference clock that is synchronized with the predetermined  
frequency, is spread;

(c) a photoelectric conversion control circuit for  
controlling a photoelectric conversion section which receives  
15 light from an original document and conducts a photoelectric  
conversion, which is driven by third spreading ~~clocks~~ clock

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signals in which a band of a reference clock that is synchronized with the predetermined frequency is spread; and

(d) at least one of a control circuit from among an  
20 operation control circuit for controlling an operation section, a  
sequence control circuit for controlling a sequence of an entire  
image forming apparatus, and an ADF control circuit for  
controlling an automatic document feeder, which are driven by  
fourth spreading ~~clocks~~ clock signals in which a band of a  
25 reference clock that is synchronized with a predetermined  
frequency is spread,

wherein the spreading width of the first spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals is smaller than that of the second spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals, the spreading width of the second spreading ~~clocks~~  
30 clock signals is smaller than that of the third spreading ~~clocks~~  
clock signals, and the spreading width of the third spreading  
~~clocks~~ clock signals is smaller than that of the fourth spreading  
~~clocks~~ clock signals.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). An image forming apparatus for  
forming an image on a recording material, comprising:

(a) a first spreading clock generator for spreading a band  
of a reference clock that is synchronized with a predetermined  
5 frequency, and generating first spreading clock signals;



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(b) a first control circuit for controlling the image forming apparatus or each of the image forming apparatus, and which is driven by the first spreading ~~clocks~~ clock signals;

(c) a second control circuit for controlling the image forming apparatus or each section of the image forming apparatus;

(d) a communication line through which a data communication is conducted between the first control circuit and the second control circuit; and

(e) a temporary memory section provided in the communication line for temporarily storing communicated data.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). The image forming apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:

a second spreading clock generator for spreading a band of a reference clock signal that is synchronized with a predetermined frequency, and for generating second spreading clock signals,

wherein the second control circuit is driven by the second spreading clock signals.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, the image forming apparatus comprising:

(a) a writing section for writing according to image data;

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- 5 (b) a first spreading clock generator for spreading a band  
of a reference clock that is synchronized with a predetermined  
frequency, and for generating first spreading clock signals;
- (c) a second spreading clock generator for spreading a band  
of a reference clock that is synchronized with a predetermined  
10 frequency, and for generating second spreading clock signals;
- (d) a first control circuit for controlling the image  
forming apparatus or each section of the image forming apparatus,  
which is driven by the first spreading clock signals; and
- (e) a second control circuit for controlling the image  
15 forming apparatus or each section of the image forming apparatus,  
which is driven by the second spreading clock signals,
- wherein the first spreading clock generator is synchronized  
with the second spreading clock generator by providing a reset  
signal to the first and second spreading clock generators.